



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Oskaloosa Wastewater Improvements project in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Oskaloosa located at 220 S. Market Street, Oskaloosa, IA 52577.

The funding would be used for implementing long-term improvements necessary to bring the City of Oskaloosa's two wastewater facilities into compliance. The funding would go toward design engineering for major improvements to the city's existing wastewater system and to create additional capacity to serve the Oskaloosa Innovation Park – a new 500-acre certified industrial park. To achieve the required Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance, and compliance with the 2008 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan, the city must complete the proposed engineering for the upgrades in FY24. Once the engineering is completed, future construction phases of the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) improvements estimated at \$78M can be pursued so they are completed in time for the IDNR deadline of April 1, 2027. To meet the IDNR criterion for hydraulic sizing based on current flows, the WWTF require at least a 65% (NE) and 75% (SW) increase in capacity. To meet IDNR criterion based on future design flows, the NE WWTF requires a 70% capacity increase and the SW WWTF requires 120% increase to handle the full certified site.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it 1) supports retention and expansion of high-quality manufacturing jobs in a community and region where a concentration of manufacturing exists; 2) prevents low-income Iowans from experiencing hardship due to wastewater rates rising at an unsustainable rate in order to meet state and federal compliance standards; and, 3) prevents a situation where the wastewater system overloads and hazardous health and environmental conditions create a crisis.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mariannette Miller-Meeks". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress